

IN THE CLAIMS:

A full listing of the claims, including any amendments made thereto by this paper, follows below:

1. (Currently Amended) A foldable protective garment comprising:
an outer shell shaped to fit about the arms, chest, torso and legs of the body of a wearer, said outer shell being foldable into a compact position; and
a pouch defining a generally closed shape having an inner volume and coupled to said outer shell, said pouch being shaped and sized to receive generally all of said outer shell in said inner volume when said outer shell is in said compact position, said pouch including an upper mouth and a lower mouth located on a generally opposite side of said pouch relative to said upper mouth, wherein said upper mouth and said lower mouth are both selectively openable and closable, and wherein said pouch is movable between an internal position wherein said pouch is generally located inside said outer shell and an external position wherein said pouch is generally located outside said outer shell, and wherein when said pouch is in said internal position said pouch has an inner surface formed in a generally closed loop tubular shape and an outer surface formed in a generally closed loop tubular shape, and wherein when said pouch is in said external position said pouch is located in an inverted configuration wherein said inner surface is located outside said outer surface.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The garment of claim 1 further comprising a lower fastening mechanism for selectively closing said lower mouth.
4. (Original) The garment of claim 3 wherein said lower fastening mechanism includes a plurality of patches of hook and loop fastening material located adjacent to said lower mouth to enable said selective opening and closing of said lower mouth.
5. (Original) The garment of claim 1 further comprising an upper fastening mechanism for selectively closing said upper mouth.

6. (Original) The garment of claim 5 wherein said upper fastening mechanism includes a plurality of patches of hook and loop fastening material located adjacent to said upper mouth to enable said selective opening and closing of said upper mouth.

7. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said mouth is a generally closed loop shape and said pouch is directly fixedly coupled to said outer shell generally around the entire perimeter of said upper mouth.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said pouch is configured as a generally tubular sleeve when said upper mouth and said lower mouth are entirely open.

10. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said pouch is configured to generally entirely receive and retain said outer shell therein when said outer shell is in said compact position and placed into said pouch and said upper and lower mouths are closed.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell is made from a single integral piece of material.

13. (Currently Amended) A foldable protective garment comprising:
an outer shell shaped to fit about the arms, chest, torso and legs of the body of a wearer, said outer shell being foldable into a compact position; and
a pouch coupled to said outer shell, said pouch being shaped and sized to receive generally all of said outer shell therein when said outer shell is in said compact position, said pouch including an upper mouth and a lower mouth located on a generally opposite side of said pouch relative to said upper mouth, wherein said upper mouth and said lower mouth are both

selectively openable and closable wherein said garment includes a pair of legs, and wherein said garment includes a fastener extending from an ankle of one of the pair of legs, ~~around~~ across a crotch of said garment, and to an ankle of the other leg so that said garment can be opened and donned over the head of a wearer.

14. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell is abrasion, flame and heat resistant.

15. (Original) The garment of claim 14 wherein said outer shell can resist igniting, burning, melting, dripping or separation at a temperature of 500° F for at least five minutes.

16. (Original) The garment of claim 14 wherein said outer shell includes a material selected from a group of consisting of an aramid material, a blend of aramid materials, a polybenzamidazole material, and a blend of aramid and polybenzamidazole materials.

17. (Original) The garment of claim 14 further comprising a moisture barrier located generally inside of said outer shell such that when said garment is worn said moisture barrier is located generally between said outer shell and a wearer of said garment, said moisture barrier being generally co-extensive with said outer shell and being made of a material that is generally liquid impermeable and generally moisture vapor permeable.

18. (Original) The garment of claim 17 wherein said moisture barrier includes expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

19. (Original) The garment of claim 17 further comprising a thermal liner located generally inside said outer shell such that when said garment is worn said thermal liner is located generally between said outer shell and a wearer of said garment.

20. (Original) The garment of claim 19 wherein said moisture barrier is generally located between said outer shell and said thermal liner.

21. (Original) The garment of claim 19 wherein said thermal liner includes a material selected from a group consisting of an aramid needlepunch material, an aramid batting material, an aramid non-woven material, an aramid-blend needlepunch material, an aramid-blend batting material and an aramid-blend non-woven material.

22. (Original) The garment of claim 19 further comprising a face cloth layer located inside of said thermal liner and located to be the innermost layer of said garment.

23-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for storing a protective garment comprising the steps of:

providing a protective garment having an outer shell shaped to fit about at least part of the torso of a wearer, said outer shell including a pair of pant legs shaped to fit about the legs of a wearer, said garment including a pouch coupled to said outer shell, said pouch having an upper mouth and a lower mouth, wherein each mouth is a generally closed loop shape and said pouch is fixedly coupled to said outer shell generally around the perimeter of said upper mouth, and wherein said pouch is located in an internal position wherein said pouch is generally located inside said outer shell, and wherein when said pouch is in said internal position said pouch has an inner surface formed in a generally closed loop tubular shape and an outer surface formed in a generally closed loop tubular shape;

opening said upper mouth and said lower mouths such that said pouch is in a generally sleeve-like configuration;

moving said pouch to an external position wherein said pouch is generally located outside said outer shell, wherein when said pouch is in said external position said pouch is located in an inverted configuration wherein said inner surface is located outside said outer surface; and

folding said garment into said pouch such that generally all of said outer shell is located in said pouch.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of, after said folding step, closing said upper and lower mouths.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said upper mouth is located on a generally opposite side of said pouch relative to said lower mouth.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said folding step includes arranging said garment such that said garment extends at least partially through both of said mouths.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for storing a protective garment comprising the steps of:

providing a protective garment having an outer shell shaped to fit about at least part of the torso and legs of a wearer and pouch coupled to said outer shell, said pouch having an upper mouth and a lower mouth;

opening said upper mouth and said lower mouths such that said pouch is in a generally sleeve-like configuration;

folding said garment into said pouch such that generally all of said outer shell is located in said pouch, wherein said folding step includes arranging said garment such that said garment extends at least partially through both of said mouths, wherein said upper mouth is coupled to said outer shell generally about the entire perimeter of said upper mouth, and wherein at least one arm of said garment extends through said lower mouth during said folding step.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for storing a protective garment comprising the steps of:

providing a protective garment having an outer shell shaped to fit about at least part of the torso of a wearer, said outer shell including a pair of pant legs shaped to fit about the legs of a wearer, said garment including a pouch coupled to said outer shell, said pouch having an upper mouth and a lower mouth;

opening said upper mouth and said lower mouths such that said pouch is in a generally sleeve-like configuration;

folding said garment into said pouch such that generally all of said outer shell is located in said pouch, wherein said pouch is located in an internal position wherein said pouch is generally located inside said outer shell during said providing step, and wherein the method includes the step of, prior to said folding step, moving said pouch to an external position wherein said pouch is generally located outside said outer shell, and wherein said outer shell is shaped to fit over the arms, chest, torso and legs of a wearer, and wherein said folding step includes inverting both of said arms of said outer shell such that at least part of each arm is passed through both mouths of said pouch.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of, after said inverting step, inserting said torso portion of said outer shell into said pouch and then inserting said legs of said outer shell into said pouch.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said outer shell is abrasion, flame and heat resistant and can resist igniting, burning, melting, dripping or separation at a temperature of 500° F for at least five minutes.

37-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said pouch is fixedly and non-removably coupled to said outer shell.

40. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said upper mouth and said lower mouth are spaced apart and communicate with each other via said inner volume.

41. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said outer shell includes a back portion configured to lie adjacent to the back of a wearer and a front portion configured to lie adjacent the front of a wearer, and wherein said pouch is coupled to said front portion of said outer shell.

42. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said pouch is configured and located such that said pouch can be accessed by a wearer of said garment when said garment is worn.

43-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said upper mouth and said lower mouth are spaced apart and communicate with each other via said inner volume.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said outer shell includes a back portion configured to lie adjacent to the back of a wearer and a front portion configured to lie adjacent the front of a wearer, and wherein said pouch is coupled to said front portion of said outer shell.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said outer shell is shaped to fit about the arms, chest, torso and legs of the body of a wearer.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said pouch is configured and located such that said pouch can be accessed by a wearer of said garment when said garment is worn.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said upper mouth defines a closed loop shape and said lower mouth defines a closed loop shape.

51. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said garment includes a pair of legs.

52. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said upper mouth and said lower mouth are both independently openable and closable relative to each other.

53. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1 wherein said pouch is generally tubular.

54-57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said pouch defines a generally closed shape having an inner volume, and wherein said upper mouth and said lower mouth are both independently openable and closable.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said pouch is generally tubular after said opening step.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)